

# TAR HEEL LINKS AND MOUNTAINS



Climbing down the Sunset Mountain trail, where the visitors enjoy their exercise near Asheville, N. C.

WITH winter in the East comes snow and ice, causing all eyes to turn with longing to the Southland, with its balmy atmosphere and opportunity for outdoor life in the springlike weather. The golfer can picture in his mind golden hours in the bright sunshine on the famous links of Southern resorts. The devotees of tennis, riding, motoring and other healthful outdoor sports are no less enthusiastic about a trip to the South, where their dreams may become a reality. Hundreds of resorts afford excellent accommodation for thousands from the North and West who are annual winter visitors.

The mountains of western North Carolina are in America's foremost all year resort section. Two thousand feet above sea level, this wonderful plateau, in a setting of high peaks traversed by splendid streams and dotted with beautiful lakes, embraces within its borders more than twenty-five noted resorts.

Asheville, the largest of these resorts and from which all others are quickly and comfortably reached, is a modern city of 12,000 people. Here has been recently completed the Grove Park Inn. This addition to the already ample and excellent hotel facilities of Asheville has made the accommodations at that resort probably the most complete to be found in any country. Other hotels also open all the year and offering luxurious quarters, are The Manor, Battery Park, The Langren, Margo Terrace. There are numerous homelike boarding houses and attractive bungalows are to be had for the season.

Asheville is easily and quickly reached from New York by double daily through service with Pullman drawing room sleeping cars. Proceeding further south one finds Augusta, Aiken, Summerville, Charleston, Brunswick, as well as Jacksonville and other Florida resorts. All of these resorts offer the winter visitor luxurious hotel accommodations, gay with social life, while the less strenuous rest and recuperate in less pretentious though equally comfortable hotels or cottages which may be reached for the winter.

Fading the delights of outdoor life in the land of the Sky. Think of cloudless sunny days in an ozone laden atmosphere on the celebrated golf links of this section, picture in your mind's eye golden hours of pure delight at tennis, or motoring, or riding over the beautiful roads of the mountain region. Imagine the joy of being when you will get your alpen stock and be off for a day or an hour climbing the rugged mountain sides, exploring the trails and unbroken paths and gliding in the magnificent scenery.

Tucked away among lofty peaks of the southern Appalachian on a general undulating plateau of exceptional beauty is the charming village of Tryon, one of the most beautiful all year round resorts in America. This delightful hamlet, which looks for all the world as if it were a bit of English landscape transferred to the heart of heroic American mountains, forms the lower gateway of the Southern Railway to the Land of the Sky, a metropolitan peculiarity of Tryon is that it is surrounded by a thermal belt several miles in length and approximately two thousand feet in width. Within this belt frost and dew are absolutely unknown. The atmosphere at all times is dry and mild. Scientists of the United States Department of Agriculture now are engaged in studying the problem as presented by the presence of the thermal belt with a view to its solution. Nobody has yet been able to satisfactorily account for it.

At Hall and Mimosa Inn, two splendidly appointed places offering every comfort and convenience, delightfully take care of Tryon's extensive tourist travel during the winter months.

Among the other resorts in the Land of the Sky, may be included Hot Springs, Waynesville, Brevard, Flat Rock and Saluda. Space lacks to give detailed mention of the delightful resorts and the opportunities they offer for delightful visits.

Proceeding further southward, one finds the famous resorts of Augusta, Aiken, Summerville, Charleston, Brunswick, Jacksonville and other Florida resorts. All of these resorts offer to the winter visitor luxurious hotel accommodations, gay with social life, while the less strenuous rest and recuperate in less pretentious though equally comfortable hotels and cottages which are to be had for the winter.

Formerly a visit to any one of these delightful resorts was given more than ordinary consideration on account of the inconvenience experienced in making the trip, but the transportation problem has long since been solved by the Southern Railway. Through trains are operated



Boating has its charms on such a lake as this. Sapphire Lake, near Hendersonville, N. C. A quiet and beautiful body of water.

## There Are Diversions of All Sorts in the Tar Heel Country for Winter Visitors

parts of these States and pronounce it a good field.

Tourists who have been in Virginia will wish to migrate at about this time and will find at least three gateways into North Carolina, one from Roanoke, Va., to Winston-Salem; a second from Danville, Va., to Greensboro, and a new one from Richmond, Petersburg and Clarksville to Durham.

In this western section of North Carolina there is yet much to be done in the building of highways to afford satisfactory conditions the year round. But in the early winter before the heavy rains set in many runs are favorable and a very attractive country is traversed. Highways in North Carolina are being investigated in order to locate the most satisfactory trunk roads across the State, in both a north and south direction, as well as an eastern and western. The central highway extends from the mountains to the sea and is the highway authorized by the General Assembly of North Carolina. This when completed will reach from the sea coast to the Tennessee line.

The road from Biltmore to Asheville is of special interest. This city, finely situated on the hills rising from the junction of the French Broad Valley and the Swannanoa, is the chief town of western North Carolina. A health resort of wide renown, it possesses a climate that is delightful. There are few days in the year when out door exercise is not enjoyable.

Near Asheville is Biltmore, an estate of huge proportions on which George W. Vanderbilt erected a French baronial mansion at a cost of millions of dollars.

Built on a terrace, magnificent views are ever before the eyes of visitors. Beautiful drives are found for many miles through the 13,000 acre "estate." The variety of tree life is wonderful to see. The little village of Biltmore is fashioned after the old English villages with its dairy, chicken and hog raising, are interesting in their scientific perfection as you drive around the grounds. The air of this section in December is perfect, crisp and clear.

A little further on in the southwesterly direction by way of Hendersonville, the "Sapphire Country" is reached. This section contains small lakes, among which are Toxaway and Sapphire.

The drive from Toxaway to Sapphire furnishes one of the few drives through a hemlock forest in this country. Tox-

way affords more varied pleasures than most resorts; riding, driving, tramping, trout fishing, boating and hunting can be enjoyed. Several kinds of trout, including rainbow, speckled and brook trout, frequent the streams which supply the lake. At another season you see rhododendron and laurel in their glory. Mount Toxaway, a thousand feet higher than the lake, can be climbed. Ascending the mountain on the bridge paths, beautiful views are afforded. On a clear day three ranges of mountains may be seen and during the storm it is particularly interesting to watch the cloud formations settling on the different mountain peaks. There is a farmhouse across the lake, where an old fashioned chicken and waffle supper can be had, prepared by two old negroes who knew many of the war time notables. On the crisp autumn evenings at Toxaway, fires are lighted in the big open fireplaces on the porches; these are especially attractive when the reflection of the moon is seen on the lake.

Motorists who wish to extend their trip into the Pinchburg section of North Carolina will not continue to Winston-Salem, but from Kennesaw turn eastward and go by way of Greensboro and Ashboro to Pinchburg. This furnishes an outlet into various attractive sections of the Carolinas. A trip may be taken to Richmond, Va., by running north through Fayetteville, Smithfield and Raleigh to Durham, thence via Oxford, Clarksville, Pinckney, Boynton and South Hill to Forkville and along the Seaboard Air Line Railway through Petersburg to Richmond.

Another trip available from Pinchburg is to Wilmington, N. C., on the coast. This is the largest city in North Carolina and attracts many tourists by its fine accommodations for visitors. This runs through Raeford, Red Springs and Pembroke to Lumberton, thence via Fairmont, Boardman, Chadbourn and Bolton to Wilmington, 151 miles from Pinchburg.

Pinchburg also furnishes a southerly outlet to the Santa Fe way of Charaw. This route is generally sand clay and in most seasons of the year is in very good shape. Sand clay roads predominate in the Southern section, where the natural surface is clay. About four inches of sand is placed on the red clay after it has been graded. This packs hard, making a road that is really more comfortable to ride on than macadam and is easy to maintain. A great number of miles will be built throughout the Carolinas of sand clay roads within the next year.



The golf course of the Asheville Country Club in the foreground. Beyond is the newest of hotels in that section, the Grove Park Inn.

from Pennsylvania Railroad Terminal, New York City, to the principal cities of the South. These include such examples of through train service as the following, operated by the Southern Railway:

The New York and New Orleans Limited, Atlanta special, Southern's Southeastern Limited, Birmingham special, Memphis special, United States fast mail, New York and Chattanooga Limited.

These are solid through trains, open section drawing room, stateroom and observation sleeping cars of steel construction, electrically lighted, with Southern Railway dining car service.

From the West service is rendered by the Royal Palm, Chicago to Jacksonville; the Carolina special, Cincinnati to Jacksonville; Kansas City-Florida special, Kansas City to Jacksonville, and the St. Louis special.

The New York and New Orleans Limited is the pioneer through train from New York to the southeastern part of the United States and is the only daily all Pullman train to and through the Southeast. This train, composed of open section, drawing room and stateroom, library and observation cars with Southern Railway dining car service, running solid from New York to New Orleans, makes direct connection at that point with the Sunset Limited, daily train de luxe over the Southern Pacific Railway from New Orleans to Los Angeles and San Francisco. The Sunset Limited is of the same character as the New York and New Orleans Limited, and these two trains form through service from the East via the Sunshine Route to the Pacific coast.

To the sightseer and those of more venturesome disposition Panama and South America offer an irresistible appeal, and the very attractive winter tours of the United Fruit Company from New Orleans are found to be delightful. When used in connection with the complete through service of the Southern Railway from New York and other Eastern cities the entire trip becomes one of pure joy.

The Southern's Southeastern Limited through from New York to Jacksonville is a popular train for the winter visitor to Augusta, Aiken, Charleston, Summerville, Savannah, Brunswick and Jacksonville, where direct connection is made for all east coast, west coast and interior Florida resorts. This train also offers sleeping car service to Asheville, N. C.

Connection is made at Jacksonville by Southern Railway trains with the steamship Evangeline of the Plant Line, which will make seven winter tours during the season 1913-1914. The itinerary of these tours will include visits to Cuba, Panama, West Indies and other interesting points. The Southeastern Limited also provides direct service to and from Key West and Havana via Jacksonville.

No article relating to the South and her resorts would be complete without mention also being made of the through transportation service which is being rendered by the Southern Railway from New York and the East to Southern commercial centers. The Atlanta special, a solid through train composed exclusively of Pullman sleeping cars of latest design and operated on convenient schedule, connects New York with the South's most thriving and metropolitan city, while the Birmingham special, Memphis special and New York and Chattanooga Limited, all of which are through trains, offer similar service to the points indicated.

Thus it would be seen that by the seven trains which have been mentioned the famous resort points throughout the South, as well as the growing and bustling cities, have become strongly linked together, bringing into quick touch the great cities of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and other Eastern points with the progressive sister cities of the South of Lynchburg, Danville, Charlotte, Asheville, Spartanburg, Greenville, Atlanta, Birmingham, Macon, Co-

### COTTAGE SEASON AT AIKEN.

AIKEN, S. C., Dec. 29.—In Aiken this will be a "cottage" season and a "home" season by reason of the fact that the burned Park-in-the-Pines Hotel has not been rebuilt, and the Magnolia Inn has been converted from a tourist hotel into a school building. Aiken still has Wilcox's and the Palmetto Inn, but the accommodations at both of these hostleries are limited, and it is understood that Mr. Wilcox, having booked more than enough guests to fill his place throughout the season, is arranging to

accommodate the overflow in homes near the hotel.

Aiken is, however, expecting the usual successful winter season, and Aiken people are preparing to throw open their homes for the entertainment of guests. After the Christmas holidays dozens of pretty Aiken residences will be converted into miniature hotels.

The cottagers, it is learned, will practically, all of them open their winter places here. Although they have never discouraged the erection of tourist hotels, it is pretty generally known that the cottage colony has preferred the exclusiveness of the resort enjoyed some years ago in the interim between the burning of the old Highland Park Hotel and the building of the Park-in-the-Pines, and now that there is a return of this condition

### Down the French Broad, where the approach to Asheville is made.

information is that the cottagers intend to make the most of it.

The Thomas Hitchcocks, the Sheffield Phelps, C. P. Ross and family of Waterbury, Conn.; Mrs. J. C. Mallory of New York and Miss Celestine Eustis are among the early cottagers to arrive, and it is heard here that some of the places which have been closed for several seasons past will be occupied this season.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney are to be here for a part of the time. The Oller Isells are expected after the holidays. The Pellet cottage will be thrown open within the next few days. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Lyon of Asheville, Pa., will occupy the Beach cottage. The Philip Randolphs are coming in January. Josef Hofmann spent a few days here recently preparing for a return with his family.

Gouverneur Morris's place is being put in readiness for occupancy. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McKim are expected soon.

A number of new cottages have been erected bordering on the new Highland Park golf links, and on the site of the famous hostelry destroyed by fire several years ago, and these will be taken for the season by some who have more recently been converted to Aiken's charms. Information is to the effect that most of the renting cottages have been reserved for the season, but they are seldom occupied until after the holidays.

### TOURING IN THE CAROLINAS.

THERE is much that is attractive in the Carolinas—some sections at this season are particularly alluring. Many automobilists have had occasion this fall to motor in various

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- At Hendersonville . . . . . St. John's Hotel; Kentucky Home; Park Hill Cottage; The Waverley, etc.
- At Waynesville . . . . . The Bellevue; Mrs. Willis; Mrs. Garrison; Miller House, etc.
- At Brevard . . . . . The Aetholwold; The Franklin; Hunt Cottages; etc., etc.
- At Hot Springs . . . . . Mountain Park Hotel; Lane House, McFall House, etc.
- At Saluda . . . . . The Carolina Home; Garren House; Bushnell House; Lane House; Fairview.
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Stopover privileges allowed on winter tourist tickets to Asheville and other points in Western North Carolina. For Information, Address A. S. Thweatt, Eastern Passenger Agent Southern Railway Company, 264 Fifth Avenue, New York, or the Boards of Trade of the various cities mentioned above.